GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1063
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2006
ACTUAL FIGURE OF PEOPLE LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINE
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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether different figures are being given about the number of people living below the poverty line in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether until the factual figure about the people living below the poverty line is not ascertained, no effective scheme or policy can be framed for their upliftment; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to find out the actual number of people living below the poverty line in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a) & (b) : The estimation of the incidence of poverty is done by three different methodologies.

(i) Official methodology of poverty estimation by the Planning Commission :

The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years according to the Expert Group Methodology (Lakdawala Committee on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor). The latest available data from such survey is from NSS 55th Round, which was conducted in 1999-2000. The State-wise number and percentage o f persons living below the poverty line using data from the above quinquennial round of National Sample Survey Organization is given in the Annexure.

(ii) BPL Census :

BPL Census is not a methodology by which poverty is estimated, basically it is done to identify the BPL households for eligibility under the various anti-poverty programmes. This census is conducted by the different State Governments with the help of the Ministry of Rural Development. The census is required for implementation of various poverty alleviation programmes and the identification of the beneficiaries.

(iii) By International Agencies :

The criteria used by the International Agencies is $ 1 per person per day in 1985 PPP (Purchasing Power Parity). This estimate is not used by the Government of India, since it does not distinguish between rural and urban areas or between different States of the country.
(c)& (d) : The official estimate of poverty by the Planning Commission is the standard method which is adopted for uniform calculation of poverty by the Government of India for the purpose of allocating funds under the various anti-poverty schemes/programmes. The actual selection of beneficiaries is based on the identification made through the BPL Census. Thus, there is no problem in framing and implementing effective schemes and polices for uplifting people below the poverty line.

Annexure

Number and Percentage of Population Below Poverty Line by States - 1999-2000

	Rural		Urban		Combined	
No.	States/U.T.`s	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58.13	11.05	60.88	26.63	119.01	15.77

2.Arunachal Pradesh 3.80 40.04 0.18 7.47 3.98 33.47
3.Assam 92.17 40.04 2.38 7.47 94.55 36.09
4.Bihar 376.51 44.30 49.13 32.91 425.64 42.60
5.Goa 0.11 1.35 0.59 7.52 0.70 4.40
6.Gujarat 39.80 13.17 28.09 15.59 67.89 14.07
7.Haryana 11.94 8.27 5.39 9.99 17.34 8.74
8.Himachal Pradesh 4.84 7.94 0.29 4.63 5.12 7.63
9.Jammu & Kashmir 2.97 3.97 0.49 1.98 3.46 3.48
10.Karnataka 59.91 17.38 44.49 25.25 104.40 20.04
11.Kerala 20.97 9.38 20.07 20.27 41.04 12.72
12.Madhya Pradesh 217.32 37.06 81.22 38.44 298.54 37.43
13.Maharashtra 125.12 23.72 102.87 26.81 227.99 25.02
14.Manipur 6.53 40.04 0.66 7.47 7.19 28.54
15.Meghalaya 7.89 40.04 0.34 7.47 8.23 33.87
16.Mizoram 1.40 40.04 0.45 7.47 1.85 19.47
17.Nagaland 5.21 40.04 0.28 7.47 5.49 32.67
18.Orissa 143.69 48.01 25.40 42.83 169.09 47.15
19.Punjab 10.20 6.35 4.29 5.75 14.49 6.16
20.Rajasthan 55.06 13.74 26.78 19.85 81.83 15.28
21.Sikkim 2.00 40.04 0.04 7.47 2.05 36.55
22.Tamil Nadu 80.51 20.55 49.97 22.11 130.48 21.12
23.Tripura 12.53 40.04 0.49 7.47 13.02 34.44
24.Uttar Pradesh 412.01 31.22 117.88 30.89 529.89 31.15
25.West Bengal 180.11 31.85 33.38 14.86 213.49 27.02
26.A & N Island 0.58 20.55 0.24 22.11 0.82 20.99
27.Chandigarh 0.06 5.75 0.45 5.75 0.51 5.75
28.Dadra & NagarHaveli 0.30 17.57 0.03 13.52 0.33 17.14
29.Daman & Diu 0.01 1.35 0.05 7.52 0.06 4.44
30.Delhi 0.07 0.40 11.42 9.42 11.49 8.23
31.Lakshadweep 0.03 9.38 0.08 20.27 0.11 15.60
32.Pondicherry 0.64 20.55 1.77 22.11 2.41 21.67
All India 1932.43 27.09 670.07 23.62 2602.50 26.10

Note :

1.Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh,Meghalaya Mizoram,Manipur,Nagaland and Tripura

2.Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.

3. Poverty Line of Himachal Pradesh and expenditure distribution of Jammu & Kashmir is used to estimate poverty ratio of Jammu & Kashmir

4. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A & N Island

5. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh

6 Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli

7. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.

8.Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep